

# Anna ot Shesti do Vosemnadtsati

( "Anna From 6 to 18" )

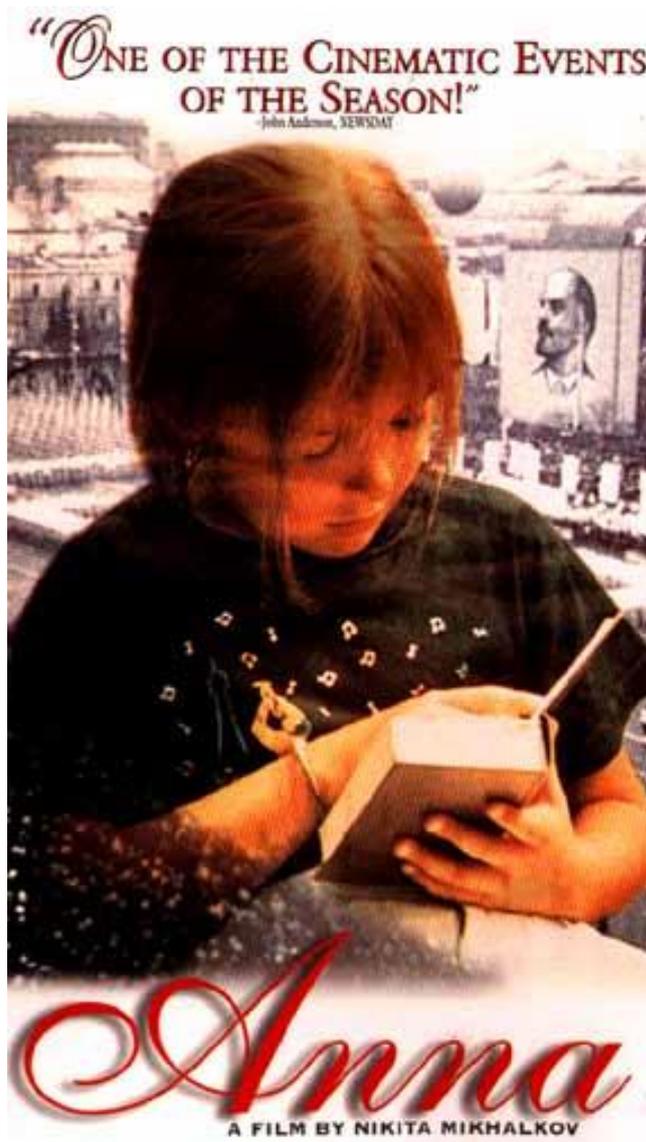
Russian documentary : 1994 : dir. Nikita Mikhalkov

: 99 min

prod: : scr: : dir.ph.:

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Television has become increasingly voyeuristic over the past decade, and loses no opportunity to obtrude itself into the homes of ordinary families and celebrity households alike. But this is a unique instance, to my knowledge, of a professional film-maker shooting a study of his own child from the ages of 6 to 18, and he had the serendipity to do so at a time when Russian society itself was convulsively throwing off an entire socio-political system.

Source for all stills: CVMC website



CVMC video retail/rental website review:

“Director Nikita Mikhalkov here captures Russian history while filming his daughter during a twelve year long span. From her sixth to her seventeenth birthday, Anna is asked the same five questions annually, providing us with a unique social commentary. Very well done and much more interesting than it sounds; recommended!

Rated NR: adult themes [sic]; brief nudity; brief violence

Language: Russian (also some English) (with English subtitles)

Categories: Documentary, Girl Films, Little to Preteen, Adolescent, Special Interests.”

No further information currently available. It sounds intriguing on many levels – as an intimate family portrait from a gifted film-maker, as a 99-minute video diary for the big screen, as an oblique documentary on Russian society during its third great upheaval of the twentieth century, and above all as a field study in child psychology, charting the growing consciousness of the director's daughter through late childhood and early adolescence. Obviously a film of this nature will be of primary importance to this archive. On that account, although unseen by this reviewer, it must be **recommended**.

The director's younger daughter, Nadia Mikhaikova, played a significant role in her father's award-winning feature "**BURNT BY THE SUN**" (94), detailing how one loving family is affected by the Stalinist purges. The director himself played the lead in that film, and it's reasonable to suppose Anna Mikhaikova, the object of this study, put in an appearance there too.

Every film is unique and yet no film is ever altogether unique. Other material to parallel this would include "**KUNDSKABENS TRAE**" ("The Tree of Knowledge", 81) in which Danish director Nils Malmros filmed a class of schoolchildren over several years, allowing his actors to physically pass through puberty themselves during the course of the story they played, and Michael Apted's groundbreaking series of documentary films for Granada TV – since widely imitated – "**7 UP**", "**14 UP**", "**21 UP**" etc. Channel 4 television in the UK launched a parallel long-term project on its birth – "**Citizen 2000**". All of these films – whatever the agenda of those who made them – offer a particularly keen insight into child development, and are generally free of the studied self-modelling which shows itself in contemporary video diary style programmes.

See subject index under [AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL TITLES / VIDEO DIARIES, DOCUMENTARIES, EASTERN EUROPE / SOVIET BLOC](#) and **RECOMMENDED TITLES**.